

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A puncturing device for puncturing a ~~wall~~ powder capsule, comprising:

a substantially longitudinal prong comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery;

~~a puncturing surface disposed on the distal end of the prong;~~

a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;

a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong, running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong, and terminating at the sharp puncturing point~~puncturing surface~~; and

a substantially planar face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the prong further comprises a base coupled to the proximal end of the prong.

4. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the primary cutting edge is sharp.

5. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the primary cutting edge is jagged.

6. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the primary cutting edge is serrated.

7. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the substantially planar face has a slight concave curvature.

8. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the prong is tapered so that the distal end of the prong is smaller than the proximal end of the prong, to facilitate removing the prong from the wall.

9. (Currently Amended) The puncturing device of claim 1, further comprising an angled surface disposed on the distal end of the prong, the angled surface having a distal end

terminating at the ~~puncturing surface~~ sharp puncturing point and a proximal end terminating at the substantially planar face.

10. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the puncturing device is made by injection molding.

11. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the puncturing device is made of metal.

12. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the puncturing device is made of ceramic.

13. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, wherein the puncturing device is made of plastic.

14. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 1, further comprising
a plurality of longitudinal faces and a plurality of longitudinal edges disposed on the periphery of the prong between the primary cutting edge and the substantially planar face, and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong.

15. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is four.

16. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is two.

17. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is four.

18. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is two.

19. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a pentagon.

20. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a triangle.

21. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is sharp.

22. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is jagged.
23. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is serrated.
24. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is blunt.
25. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces is substantially planar.
26. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces has a slight concave curvature.
27. (Original) A puncturing assembly comprising a plurality of puncturing devices of claim 1.
28. (Original) The puncturing assembly of claim 27, further comprising a base coupled to each of the plurality of puncturing devices.
29. (Original) The puncturing assembly of claim 28, wherein the puncturing assembly is substantially U-shaped.
30. (Original) The puncturing assembly of claim 27, wherein the puncturing assembly is made by injection molding.
31. (Currently Amended) A puncturing device for puncturing a powder capsule, comprising:
a substantially longitudinal prong comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery;
~~a puncturing surface disposed on the distal end of the prong;~~
a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;
a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong and terminating at the sharp puncturing point~~puncturing surface~~;
a face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge;
wherein the prong is configured to create an opening in ~~a wall~~ the powder capsule by forming a hanging chad in the ~~wall~~ powder capsule, the hanging chad having a free end formed

by the ~~puncturing surface~~ sharp puncturing point and the primary cutting edge and a hinge coupled to the wall powder capsule formed by the face.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the prong further comprises a base coupled to the proximal end of the prong.

34. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the primary cutting edge is sharp.

35. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the primary cutting edge is jagged.

36. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the primary cutting edge is serrated.

37. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the face is substantially planar.

38. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 37, wherein the face has a slight concave curvature.

39. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the prong is tapered so that the distal end of the prong is smaller than the proximal end of the prong, to facilitate removing the prong from the wall.

40. (Currently Amended) The puncturing device of claim 31, further comprising an angled surface disposed on the distal end of the prong, the angled surface having a distal end terminating at the ~~puncturing surface~~ sharp puncturing point and a proximal end terminating at the ~~substantially planar~~ face.

41. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the puncturing device is made by injection molding.

42. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the puncturing device is made of metal.

43. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the puncturing device is made of ceramic.

44. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the puncturing device is made of plastic.

45. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, wherein the prong has a length and the prong is insertable into the receptacle at least $3/4$ of the length of the prong without breaking off the hanging chad.
46. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 31, further comprising
a plurality of longitudinal faces and a plurality of longitudinal edges disposed on the periphery of the prong between the primary cutting edge and the substantially planar face, and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong.
47. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is four.
48. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein the number of longitudinal faces is two.
49. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is four.
50. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein the number of longitudinal edges is two.
51. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a pentagon.
52. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein a cross section of the prong is substantially a triangle.
53. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is sharp.
54. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is jagged.
55. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is serrated.
56. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein one or more of the plurality of longitudinal edges is blunt.

57. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 46, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces is substantially planar.
58. (Original) The puncturing device of claim 57, wherein each of the plurality of longitudinal faces has a slight concave curvature.
59. (Original) A puncturing assembly comprising a plurality of puncturing devices of claim 46.
60. (Original) The puncturing assembly of claim 59, further comprising a base coupled to each of the plurality of puncturing devices.
61. (Original) The puncturing assembly of claim 60, wherein the puncturing assembly is substantially U-shaped.
62. (Original) The puncturing assembly of claim 59, wherein the puncturing assembly is made by injection molding.
63. (Currently Amended) A puncturing device for puncturing a powder capsule, comprising:
a substantially longitudinal prong comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery;
~~a puncturing surface disposed on the distal end of the prong;~~
a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;
a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong and terminating at the sharp puncturing point~~puncturing surface~~;
a face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge;
wherein the prong is configured to form a hanging chad in a wall of ~~a receptacle~~ the powder capsule, ~~having wherein the powder capsule has~~ a longitudinal axis substantially parallel to the prong and a minor axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the hanging chad being opened to an angle of at least 30 degrees with respect to the minor axis.
64. (Cancelled)
65. (Cancelled)
66. (Cancelled)

67. (New) The puncturing device of claim 63, wherein the hanging chad is opened to an angle between 30 and 45 degrees with respect to the minor axis.

68. (New) A device for emitting powder, comprising:

- a casing, said casing comprising at least one aperture configured to emit powder therethrough;

- a cylindrical chamber, defined by a straight wall of circular cross-section, disposed in said casing, said chamber having a proximal end and a distal end, said chamber comprising a ring circumferentially coupled to an inner surface of said chamber, said chamber configured to receive a powder capsule containing the powder;

- a substantially longitudinal prong, comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery, disposed in said casing;

- a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;

- a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong, running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong, and terminating at the sharp puncturing point; and

- a substantially planar face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong.

69. (New) A device for emitting powder, comprising:

- a casing, said casing comprising at least one aperture configured to emit powder therethrough;

- a cylindrical chamber, defined by a straight wall of circular cross-section, disposed in said casing, said chamber having a proximal end and a distal end, said chamber comprising a ring circumferentially coupled to an inner surface of said chamber, said chamber configured to receive a powder capsule containing the powder;

- a substantially longitudinal prong, comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a periphery, disposed in said casing;

- a sharp puncturing point, disposed on the distal end of the prong, wherein the sharp puncturing point makes the initial puncture in the powder capsule;

- a primary cutting edge disposed on the periphery of the prong, running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong, and terminating at the sharp puncturing point;

a substantially planar face disposed on the periphery of the prong opposite of the primary cutting edge and running from the proximal end of the prong to the distal end of the prong; and

wherein the prong is configured to form a hanging chad in a wall of the powder capsule, wherein the powder capsule has a longitudinal axis substantially parallel to the prong and a minor axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the hanging chad being opened to an angle of at least 30 degrees with respect to the minor axis.

70. (New) The device of claim 69, wherein the hanging chad is opened to an angle between 30 and 45 degrees with respect to the minor axis.